

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163652

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. ARMITAGE VISIT: JACK ACCEPTS WITH THANKS YOUR JULY 26 DINNER INVITATION. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME OF THE USA DIVISION AND USA INSTITUTE PEOPLE DURING HIS VISIT, EITHER AT THEIR OFFICES OR AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE AMBASSADOR FORD. WE SUGGESTED HE SHOULD ASK TO SEE KORNIYENKO SOMETIME, AND HE AGREED. WE MAY HAVE MORE SUGGESTIONS BEFORE HE LEAVES.

2. RE SONTAGE EXTENSION, NEGOTIATIONS STAND THUS: GELMAN PRESENTED US WITH THREE CONDITIONS (1) STATE PAY, (2) WE AGREE TO "CONSIDER REGULARIZATION" OF THE POSITION, AND (3) NO PREJUDICE TO CONTINUING SUMMER TDY ASSIGNMENTS. WE HAVE REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY TO 1 AND 3, BUT SAID WE COULD ONLY UNDERTAKE TO CONSIDER FURTHER ASSIGNMENTS TO THE POSI-
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TION IN ON AN AD HOC BASIS IN THE FUTURE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SUCH FACTORS AS RIGID PHYSICAL LIMITS ON STAFF SPACE AND PEOPLE IN PIPELINE. WE MADE CLEAR WE MAKING NO PROMISE. GELMAN'S LAST WORDS WERE THAT HE WOULD PASS THE MATTER TO HIGHER AUTHORITY WITH A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION, NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOOD COOPERATION EXISTING BETWEEN US. LOOK PROMISING. IF WE HAVE TO PUT CONDI-

TIONS INTO WRITING, DO YOU HAVE A PREFERRED FORMULATION OTHER THAN THE ABOVE ON CONSIDERING REGULARIZATION? ASSUME YOU AGREE WITH US THAT WE WANT TO HOLD THE POSITION FOR OUR OWN CADRE, BUT SHOULD BE SWEET AS WE CAN.

3. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL GO-AROUNDS WITH THE APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION AND OUR BUILDINGS PEOPLE ON THE QUESTION OF THE CHAPEL IN THE NEW EMBASSY PROJECT. FBO DOES NOT WANT TO CONSIDER THE IDEA, BECAUSE IT WOULD CAUSE A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE PLANS. OUR LEGAL PEOPLE THINK IT WOULD PROBABLY BE OK TO HAVE A SEPARATE BUILDING IN THE PROJECT WHICH WOULD BE USED AS A CHAPEL AND FINANCED BY THE FOUNDATION. RABBI SCHNEIER IS STRONG ON THE IDEA AND CAN MARSHAL CONSIDERABLE--AND PERHAPS IRRESISTABLE SUPPORT. WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE IDEA OF LEASING AN UNSUED RUSSIAN CHURCH, LIKE THE ONE ACROSS FROM THE EMBASSY. SINCE FBO IS SO ANXIOUS NOT TO HAVE TO CONSIDER CHANGES IN THE PLANS, WE BELIEVE THEY ARE AMENABLE TO AUTHORIZING THE EMBASSY TAKE A LONG-TERM GOVERNMENT LEASE ON SUCH A CHURCH AND THEN HAVING THE FOUNDATION PICK UP THE TAB, PROVIDED THERE ARE NO LEGAL PROBLEMS. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS IN GENERAL TERMS WITH SCHNEIER, WHO FEELS IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE FOUNDATION. WE HAVE MADE NO PROMISES HOWEVER, AND HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THIS SOLUTION WOULD HINGE ON THE SOVIETS' WILLINGNESS TO LEASE THE PROPERTY TO US. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMENTS BEFORE WE EXPLORE IDEA FURTHER.

4. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE WASHINGTON POST AND WALL STREET JOURNAL WILL CARRY THE SHADRIN STORY TOMORROW. WE TRIED TO HEAD THEM OFF, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. WE GAVE THE SOVIET EMBASSY ADVANCE NOTICE. VANCE

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